

REMARKS

Applicants have fully considered the Examiners' comments from the Office Action mailed November 22, 2005. Claims 1-4 and 12-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in a later filed continuation or divisional application. Claims 5-11 remain pending and claims 20-41 have been newly added in the application. Support for claims 20-41 can be found throughout the application and in the figures. In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 5-11, and 20-41.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 12, and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu (U.S. 5,883,995) in view of PCT reference WO 00/75706. Applicants note that claims 14-19 are also addressed in the text of this rejection and assume that the Examiner intended to reject claims 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu in view of the PCT reference as well. Claims 1, 4, 12, and 13-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lu reference in view of the PCT reference as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Waldron et al. (U.S. 6,234,683). Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants note that claims 5-11 are indicated as rejected on the cover sheet of the Office Action. However, no substantive rejection has been discussed in the Office Action. Claims 5-11 remain pending so that the Examiner may reconsider these claims.

New Claims

Claims 20-41 have been newly added. Claim 20 recites, in part, a telecommunications connection cabinet including an array of telecommunications adapters, a first fiber optic connector, a storage area, and a dust cap. The first fiber optic connector includes a ferrule positioned at a first end of the connector body. The ferrule has a side surface and a polished end

surface. The dust cap is mounted on the ferrule such that an inner surface of the ferrule engages the side surface of the ferrule and a closed end of the dust cap opposes the polished end of the ferrule. The storage area includes a connector holder for holding the first fiber optic connector with the dust cap mounted on the ferrule.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest a telecommunications connection cabinet including the described dust cap mounted on the ferrule in combination with the other features recited in claim 20. In particular, Lu discloses a connector cover 66 that pivots away from the ferrule when the connector is inserted into an adapter. See, e.g., column 5, lines 21-36. Lu, therefore, does not disclose or suggest a dust cap having a closed surface opposing the polished surface of the ferrule when the ferrule is inserted into a storage area. The PCT reference does not overcome the shortcomings of the Lu reference.

For at least these reasons, therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is allowable over the cited references. Claims 21-28 depend from claim 20 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 29 recites, in part, a telecommunications connection cabinet including a housing having an array of telecommunications adapters and a storage area. The cabinet also includes a first fiber optic connector and a dust cap. The storage area includes a connector holder for holding the fiber optic connector with the dust cap mounted on a ferrule of the connector. The dust cap has an inner surface that engages a side surface of the ferrule when the dust cap is mounted on the ferrule. The dust cap also includes a closed end that opposes the polished end surface of the ferrule when the dust cap is mounted on the ferrule.

Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that claim 29 is allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 20. Claims 30-36 depend from claim 29 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 37 recites, in part, a method for managing a fiber optic cord of a telecommunications connection cabinet. One end of the fiber optic cord terminates at a fiber optic connector. The fiber optic connector includes a ferrule positioned at a first end of the connector body. The method includes mounting a dust cap over the ferrule of the fiber optic connector and inserting the first end of the connector into a connector holder. The dust cap is mounted over the ferrule so that an inner surface of the dust cap engages a side surface of the

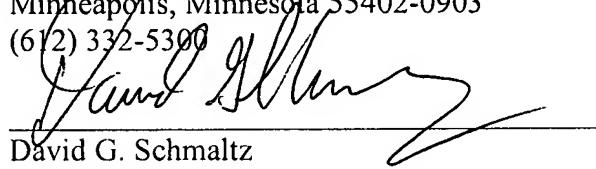
ferrule and a closed end of the dust cap opposes a polished end surface of the ferrule. The dust cap is mounted over the ferrule while the fiber optic connector is held by the connector holder

Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that claim 37 is allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 20. Claims 38-41 depend from claim 37 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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